

Statement on Pope John Paul II

February 24, 2005

On behalf of all Americans, Laura and I send our heartfelt best wishes to Pope John Paul II. The Holy Father is in our thoughts and prayers, and we wish him a speedy recovery and return to the service of his church and all humanity.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

February 20

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Brussels, Belgium, arriving in the evening.

February 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Sheraton Brussels Hotel and Towers, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a greeting with U.S. Embassy and Missions personnel. Then, at the Royal Palace, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a courtesy call with King Albert II and Queen Paola of Belgium.

Later in the morning, in the Prime Minister's Office at Lambermont House, the President met with Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt of Belgium. Then, at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, the President met with Secretary General Jakob Gijsbert "Jaap" de Hoop Scheffer of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In the evening, at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, the President met with President Jacques Chirac of France. They then had a working dinner.

February 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, he had a working breakfast with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Later in the morning, at NATO Headquarters, the President had a meeting with President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine. He then participated in a meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission. Later, he met with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy. He then participated in a plenary session of the North Atlantic Council followed by an official photo with NATO leaders.

In the afternoon, at NATO Headquarters, the President had lunch with NATO leaders. Later, at the Justus Lipsius Building, he participated in a meeting followed by an official photo with European Union leaders.

In the evening, in the Berlaymont Building, the President met with European Commission President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso followed by a photo opportunity with European Union Commissioners. He then had a working dinner with European Commission President Durao Barroso, European Council President Jean-Claude Juncker, and European Council Secretary General Javier Solana.

The President announced his intention to nominate John C. Dugan to be Comptroller of the Currency at the Department of the Treasury.

February 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Mainz, Germany, where, at the Electoral Palace, they participated in an arrival ceremony with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany and greeted American and German soldiers who had served in Afghanistan.

Later in the morning, at the Electoral Palace, the President met with Chancellor Schroeder.

In the afternoon, at the Electoral Palace, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with Chancellor Schroeder, his wife, Doris Schroeder-Koepf, and local leaders and businesspeople. He then met with Angela

Merkel, leader of Germany's Christian Democratic Union party.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush toured the Gutenberg Museum.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Wiesbaden, Germany, where, at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, they participated in a photo opportunity with distinguished servicemembers of the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division and their spouses.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Bratislava, Slovakia, where, at M.R. Stefanik Airport, they participated in an arrival ceremony.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Cobey to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations: Peter F. Baranay; James G. Berges; JoAnn Brouillette; Thomas J. Donohue; Calvin M. Dooley; Jennifer Dunn; Edward Charles Emma; John Engler; William Eldridge Frenzel; Allen E. Gant, Jr.; Nicholas Giordano; Terry D. Growcock; Herbert Fisk Johnson; Scott Klug; Charles Edward Kruse; Larry A. Liebenow; Tracy Mullin Moroney; James Winston Morrison; Edward Joseph Perkins; Kevin Barney Rollins; Lea N. Soupata; Jose Antonio Villamil; Joseph P. Ward; Wythe Willis Willey; and Wendell L. Willkie II.

The President announced his intention to designate Harvey S. Rosen as Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

February 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a greeting with U.S. Embassy personnel.

Later in the morning, at the Presidential Palace, the President met with President Ivan Gasparovic of Slovakia. Later, in the Prime Minister's Office, he met with Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda of Slovakia.

Later in the morning, at the Slovak National Theater, the President participated in a greeting with Champions of Freedom. Later, at the Treasures Museum of Bratislava

Castle, he met with President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

In the evening, at Bratislava Castle, the President participated in a photo opportunity with President Gasparovic, Prime Minister Dzurinda, Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Pavol Hrusovsky, and President Putin.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared an emergency in Nevada and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record and/or near record snow on January 6–10.

February 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nancy Ann Nord to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Christopher J. Hanley to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to appoint James C. Langdon, Jr., as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and, upon appointment, to designate him as Chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and Chairman of the Intelligence Oversight Board.

The President announced his intention to designate Grover Whitehurst as Acting Commissioner of Education Statistics at the Department of Education.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of the Presidential delegation to attend the Inauguration of President Tabare Vazquez of Uruguay on March 1: Elaine L. Chao (head of delegation), Martin J. Silverstein, and Marilyn Ware.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate
